



clean, green, safe

Please ask for Chris Worman

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Growing Rugby's Allotments

I write to inform you that in light of the current financial situation it is necessary for the Borough Council to review how it manages the allotments around Rugby.

At this point I must stress that the Council acknowledges the many benefits that allotments bring to our communities and our ultimate aim is to ensure that allotments are provided for those who wish to use them for generations to come.

There are currently 6 directly managed sites with a total of 350 Allotment plots at Addison Road, Clifton Road, Eastlands, Freemantle Road, Newbold and the Kent. Alongside these there are new sites within the developments around Rugby. Rents range from £20-£35 plus a water charge of either £5 or £10.

It currently costs the Borough Council £113,000 to provide the service for 350 tenants. The allotment rent and water charge bring in an income of £12,170 leaving a subsidy of £99,500 which is picked up by the council tax payers of the Borough. In essence the Council tax payers are subsidising your plot by an average of £284.28. Clearly this cannot continue and together we need to find a long term sustainable solution.

I do not believe that raising the average allotment rents to over £320.00 to cover this cost is practical and would preclude many residents from affording to use allotments, which could ultimately result in allotment land being lost.

Therefore it is my view that the best way to secure affordable allotments is for the allotment holders themselves to manage the sites through Allotment Association(s). Change is never easy and I'm sure some people will be worried about taking on roles within an allotment association, however there are many benefits in forming an Association including;

- Deciding your own rents and what rules to apply. (For example the Hillmorton & Paddox Allotment Association charge £28.00 per annum for a full plot). The association just pays an annual site rental.

Rugby Borough Council

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- The allotment holders are themselves committee members and allotment holders can influence the future management of the sites.
- As a community group an Allotment Association can apply for external funding to improve sites. This is money that the Borough Council cannot access.

We are being supported by the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners who have a wealth of knowledge and experience in establishing allotment associations, and are following the approach that is being mirrored throughout the country and associations could be formed collectively or individually at each site.

You are therefore invited to attend a meeting at the Rokeby Room, Benn Hall, Newbold Rd, Rugby on Thursday 16th March, 5pm to 7pm, where we will have representatives from the national association on hand, to find out more information on how you can get involved and help secure allotments in Rugby for years to come. If you cannot attend and are interested in taking an active role in the future of your allotments, then just send an e-mail or write to the above address and we will keep you informed.

I have enclosed a leaflet about self-management of Allotments for your information.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'C' followed by a long horizontal line that curves slightly upwards at the end.

Chris Worman MBE
Parks & Grounds Manager